

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1504

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, CA

SUBJ: QUEBEC LONGSHOREMEN ORDERED BACK TO WORK

REF: OTTAWA 1196

1. HOUSE OF COMMONS ADOPTED LEGISLATION LATE APR 23 ORDERING 2,400 LONGSHOREMEN AT MONTREAL, QUEBEC CITY, AND TROIS-RIVIERES, WHO HAD BEEN ON STRIKE FOR NEARLY FOUR WEEKS, BACK TO WORK. ALSO COVERED BY THE LEGISLATION, WHICH SHOULD BE PASSED BY SENATE AND RECEIVE ROYAL ASSENT TODAY, ARE 320 CARGO REPAIRMEN AND CHECKERS WHO STRUCK ON APRIL 17. GOC WAS RELUCTANT TO INTRODUCE THIS LEGISLATION ON GROUNDS THAT IT UNDERMINES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS BUT FELT COMPELLED TO DO SO WHEN LONGSHOREMEN PICKET LINE HALTED MOVEMENT OF GRAIN AT WATERFRONT ELEVATORS.

2. BACK TO WORK BILL IMPOSES CONCILIATION REPORT SUBMITTED MARCH 14 BY JUDGE ALAN GOLD AND ACCEPTED BY MARITIME EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION AT THAT TIME AS THE SETTLEMENT. WAGES WILL BE INCREASED IN FOUR STAGES FROM CURRENT C DOLS 5.10 HOURLY BASE RATE TO MAXIMUM C DOLS 8.00 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1977, REPRESENTING UNCLASSIFIED

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43.3 PERCENT WEIGHTED AVERAGE INCREASE OVER THREE YEAR

CONTRACT DURATION. INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION (ILA) DEMAND FOR GUARANTEED ANNUAL 2,080
HOURS OF WORK WAS REJECTED AS UNDULY COSTLY FOR EMPLOYERS.
JUDGE GOLD'S RECOMMENDATION OF 1,600 HOURS OVER 40 WEEKS
AT MONTREAL, 1,400 HOURS OVER 35 WEEKS AT QUEBEC CITY
AND 1,200 HOURS DURING 30 WEEK SEASON AT TROIS-RIVIERES
WILL PREVAIL. DESPITE ENFORCEMENT CLAUSE IN BILL IT
REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER ILA LOCALS WILL ABIDE BY
BACK TO WORK ORDER, HAVING BEEN DENIED GUARANTEED
ANNUAL WAGE FOR 2,080 HOURS WHICH WAS KEY ISSUE. DISPUTE
HAD GAINED INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION LAST WEEK WHEN BRYCE
MACKASEY (POSTMASTER GENERAL AND FORMER LABOR MINISTER)
CHARGED THAT ILA PRESIDENT THOMAS GLEASON URGED OTHER
CANADIAN ILA AFFILIATES TO BOYCOTT CARGO DIVERTED FROM
STRUCK QUEBEC PORTS AND IMPLIED THAT SHIPMENTS WOULD THEN
BE DIVERTED TO U.S. PORTS. GLEASON ADMITTED URGING
OTHER ILA CANADIAN LOCALS NOT TO HANDLE CARGO DIVERTED
FROM QUEBEC BUT NOT THAT ILA MEMBERS IN U.S. WILL
NOT WORK SHIPS REROUTED TO AMERICAN PORTS WHILE
CANADIAN STRIKE IN PROGRESS. PORTER

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